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B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Tuesday, January 9, 1951.

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POLITICAL SITUATION

Referring to the recent meeting of the Higher Defense Council, it reports that after three meetings, this Council adopted a decision to stand by one of the camps, referred to in Premier Nuri As-Said's speech at King Faisal II Hall. It also reports that while in Cairo Premier Nuri As-Said will attempt to convince Egypt to agree with him on the basis of a treaty with Britain following which he will proceed to Britain to negotiate with the British Government the question of 'fettering Iraq and Egypt with two identical iron handcuffs'. The British Embassy in spring, it adds, will see a new British Ambassador to replace Sir Henry Bradshaw Mack, and also the transfer of the Oriental Secretary, Mr. Richmond. It concludes that Iraq will then find itself before a new British policy. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

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ARAB LEAGUE AND THE PRESENT WORLD SITUATION.

Referring to the forthcoming Arab League Political Committee meeting, presided by Arab Premiers, reports that among the items to be discussed are the attitude of the Arab States towards the Korean war and Communist China; their attitude in the event of a third world war; the Arab Collective Security Pact; and the effect of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty talks in the other Arab States. The committee may touch upon what is called "the Anglo-American pressure" for the conclusion of a peace Treaty with Isreal, either by direct negotiations or through the UN Conciliation Commission on Palestine.

700 The Iraqi Premier who will leave for Egypt on January 15 will conduct preliminary talks with the Egyptian Premier and Azzam Pasha on the forthcoming agenda before the Committee meeting. It refers to the Premier's statement in the Iraqi Parliament which called for unity among the Arab States, describing the existing frontiers as 'administrative ones'. This plan, it adds, will be the center of the forthcoming talks, and will be supported by Premier Al-Qudsi's call for "All Arab Unity or Agreement". Furthermore, Premier Al-Qudsi is now working on proposals calling for wider cooperation in the economic, political and military fields. Upon his

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return to Cairo, Azzam Pasha declared that Mr. Lie, UN Secretary General is expected to visit Egypt for a meeting with Arab leaders. He explained that the United States understanding of Middle East problems is now better than before, and that America is desirous of consolidating cooperation with the Arab States, and of realizing their wishes. The effect of this new American policy, he concludes, will become clear in the forthcoming months. (Al-Umma)

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Liwa Al-Istiqlal under the headline "Will the outdated Treaty be replaced by a more fettering one", recalls the discontent over the last 30 years of the entire people of Iraq, with the exception of a handful of men, in consequence of 'British and American treachery!'. Referring to the recent meeting of the Higher Defense Council, it says that in our present position it would be easy for any one in power, particularly Premier Nuri As-Said, to adopt a decision to join the Western camp at a time when the British Commonwealth Nations are studying the question of the Middle East Defense and when it is rumored that this defense will be entrusted to the Indian and Pakistani armies and not the natives of the country. It is also easy for him to conclude a new treaty in view of the fact that he is accustomed to challenging the people and to winning the support of the British government for his policy in Iraq.

If our country, it queries, is exposed to attack by Russia, will it be against the people or against the foreigner stationed in our country. We would like to defend our territory if we are free, enjoying all our rights, but we cannot conclude a treaty with Britain who has done great harm to the country, and shall ceaselessly struggle to this end until it is liberated from the yoke of foreign rule. Since this treaty will expire in about two years why then replace it by a more shackling one, it adds.

One year after the Portsmouth Treaty was concluded, the engineers of this Treaty said that it would have ensured for us Britain's support in the settlement of the Palestine question against the creation of Israel. But time has shown that Britain has sold Palestine at a high price to win American's satisfaction, what then is the motive for concluding a new treaty following the loss of Palestine, it asks.

Are we going to be driven to war like sheep or are we going to stand at one against any danger that would prejudice our entity? It concludes that Iraq should not be involved in a new treaty because of the many tragedies suffered by the country in consequence of the 1930 Treaty. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

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Commenting on the United States attempt to brand communist China as an aggressor, As-Sijil says that Iraq and the Arab States fall within this American pressure. Egypt, it explains, had already declared China as aggressor when the Korean war started; Syria declared neutrality at first, but last night the Syrian Premier disclosed that his attitude will be defined after consultations with the Arab States.

It urged that Iraq benefit of the past experiences when it stood by the Allies and was doomed with defeat. The Arab States, it continues, should stand united in adopting a decision in this respect, as any unilateral action would be detrimental to all the Arab States. Our attitude towards these American proposals should be considered in the light of the country's interest and potentiality, devoid of any sentiment or pressure from outside.

It appears that America and Britain did not want to give a clear answer to HE Towfiq As-Suwaidi's query about the security of Iraq. May be they don't want to bind themselves to any undertaking, or may be they have not arrived at a decision yet. It concludes that the responsible authorities should not take a decision that would endanger the country. (As-Sijil).

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HE Saleh Jabr will arrive in Baghdad on Friday. (Al-Naba)

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